

What is claimed is:

1. A method of modifying a first user's user profile for a data-class recommender, comprising the steps of:

receiving feedback from a first user scoring examples falling into various data-classes;

refining said first user's user profile responsively to a said feedback;

selectively modifying said first user's user profile responsively to data from a second user's user profile such that said first user's user profile is made more similar to said second user's user profile.

2. A method as in claim 1, wherein said step of selectively modifying includes receiving a command from said first user.

3. A method as in claim 1, wherein said first and second user's user profiles each include a generalized target description defining a broadest description of favored data-classes and said step of modifying includes replacing said generalized description of said first user's user profile with said generalized description of said second user's user profile.

1           4.    A method as in claim 1, wherein said step of  
2    generalizing includes modifying said first user's user  
3    profile by substituting at least a union of specialized  
4    descriptions of said first user's user profile and said  
5    second user's user profile for said specialized description  
6    of said first user's user profile.

1           5.    A method of modifying an implicit-type first  
2    user profile for a data-class recommender that is generated  
3    based on feedback regarding particular data-class choices,  
4    comprising the steps of:

5                labeling features of a second user profile based  
6    on categories of criteria, said second user profile being  
7    an implicit profile generated by providing feedback on  
8    individual selections;

9                displaying labels resulting from said step of  
10   labeling;

11               selecting at least one of said labels;

12               modifying said first user profile responsively to  
13   portions of said second user profile corresponding to said  
14   at least one of said labels.

1           6.    A method as in claim 5, wherein said step of  
2    labeling includes identifying first data descriptors that  
3    appear in combination with multiple other second data

descriptors and labeling with a label corresponding to said first data descriptors.

7. A method as in claim 5, wherein said step of labeling includes identifying first data descriptors in a feature-value-score database for which high scores exist.

8. A method of modifying an implicit-type first user profile, comprising the steps of:

combining features of said first user profile with features of a second user profile to make said first user profile more like said second user profile;

said step of combining including at least one of replacing a first profile generalized description with a second profile generalized description, adding at least a portion of a second profile specialized description to a first profile specialized description, and modifying scores of a first profile feature-value-score database responsively to scores of a second profile feature-value-score database.